GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:542
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
TRANSPORTATION OF PERISHABLE GOODS
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision regarding speedy transportation of perishable goods at parcel rates by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Railways have prepared any separate list for perishable goods such as fruits and vegetables being transported at parcel rate;

(d) if so, whether banana has been included in the list of fruits ;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament regarding inclusion of banana in the list of perishable goods and transporting it by parcel rates; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (e) As announced in the Railway Budget 2003-04, the rate structure for booking of parcel and luggage traffic has been rationalised with effect from 01.4.2003 under which all types of commodities including perishables are charged at the same rates under four different scales depending upon the type of train. Instructions exist to give preference in loading and clearance of perishable traffic. In addition to passenger carrying trains, parcel traffic including perishables are also being carried by special parcel express trains being run between important cities to cater to additional demand for speedy clearance. Banana specials and mango specials are also being run to meet heavy demand for their transportation.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise,.